

19 March 1958

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NSC BRIEFING

## FRANCE AND DE GAULLE

- I. Early end of IVth Republic increasingly envisaged by jittery French leaders who see De Gaulle's return likely:
  - A. One of these leaders, Monnet, admits Gaillard "one of his boys," but considers him totally incapable and frightened premier.
  - B. Gaillard seen intent only on avoiding being last premier before De Gaulle.
- II. De Gaulle apparently feels time ripening for his return and is becoming active contender for political power.
  - A. De Gaulle's morale and health have improved and many French leaders consulting him.
- III. But De Gaulle has given no indication he would return unless assembly accedes to his terms.
  - A. His conditions for returning are guarantee of untrammelled authority for two or three years, during which time he would revise constitution providing stronger executive.
  - B. De Gaulle sees need for complete reform of French political institutions. Pronouncements on economic policy rare.
- IV. De Gaulle's solution for North Africa is for autonomous Algeria, which with Tunisia, Morocco would be federally associated with France.
  - A. Ultra-rightists may break with him on this.
- V. De Gaulle affirms basic friendship to US but he would be prepared to take steps inimical to US interests if he considered such steps to be good for France.
  - A. Moreover, for Release 2002/08/06 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000900070031-7  
France. with USSR at expense of

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- B. He believes Soviets are not interested in making war and sees possibilities of French-Soviet deal to give France and Western Europe time to "rebuild strength."

C.

- D. He also desires to pull France out of Common Market and probably EURATOM and favors instead "United Europe" apparently without supernational institution.

VI. Prospects for his return considerably improved.

- A. Some Socialist and Rightist leaders now reported to believe that assembly majority favor his return.

B.

- C. While Assembly would still be reluctant to resign its power, North African debacle or another prolonged crisis could result in De Gaulle's recall.